

# Life in London: Living in the European Union

July 7 through August 9, London, England

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## Introduction

I'm really excited to be instructing you in my *Life in London* course. This is my first opportunity to teach abroad, though I studied abroad at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and spent about a year in Britain. I suffer badly from wanderlust, which is why I'm willing to leave my spouse and our three dogs to trek across the Atlantic for five weeks.

The European Union originated with the Treaty of Rome as the European Coal & Steel Community and has since evolved with the Maastricht Treaty into the European Union we know today. Despite being a member, the UK resists further economic integration in the European Monetary Union. In this course, we will look at the evolution of the EU and the EMU, examine Britain's position regarding membership and economic integration, and explore a few key issues in more depth. My goal is that you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the EU through classroom interaction as well as through your firsthand experiences in EU.

Given the short amount of time and the very busy schedule we will all have while in London, I encourage you to complete all of the readings along with position papers 3, 4, and 5 before leaving for London. Getting as much done before you go will qualitatively enhance your experience, as you'll have much more time to explore London, the UK, and possibly even additional countries.

## Readings

- Pinder, John. 2001. **The European Union: A Very Short Introduction**. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0192853759; \$8.96 Amazon (required)
- Temperton, Paul. 2001. **The UK and the Euro**. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN 0471499552; \$29.96 hardcover only, Amazon (required)
- Zeff and Pirro (eds). 2001. **The European Union and the Member States: Cooperation, Coordination, and Compromise**. Boulder, CO: Lynne Reinner Publishers. ISBN 1555879187; \$19.95 Amazon. (recommended)
- **Online readings** linked to London course page at [www.nku.edu/~weirk/london.html](http://www.nku.edu/~weirk/london.html) \*\*\*You must print out and bring these along with you.

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## Course Requirements

Assignments	Grading Scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Journal-50%</li><li>• Position papers (6)-35%</li><li>• Issue participation-15%</li></ul>	<b>A=90-100</b> <b>B=80-89</b> <b>C=70-79</b> <b>D=60-69</b> <b>F=59 and below</b>

### Weekly Journal

Part of your learning experience will be evaluated by weekly journal log entries relating specifically to the UK and the European Union. Your journal entries should reflect your experiences in the UK while looking at how its history, culture, politics, and economics relates to (or resists) European integration.

The purpose of the field trips is to enhance the course material and your understanding of British and European culture, as well as the political processes and economic factors. I expect you to show up on time for all of the planned field trip outings, and be on your best behavior. I expect you to be respectful and courteous of the people and places we encounter.

For each field trip, I will post information on your course webpage with related links to the sites. While in Britain, we will discuss the significance of these sites during the field trips and also relate them to issues we raise in the classroom. In addition to attendance and punctuality, your journal grade will in part be based on your contributions to those discussions. For example, when we visit Bath, we will consider how the Roman influence contributed to Britain's identity today, and how that consequently might influence Britain's position on EU integration.

I've listed the approximate cost for each field trip we are taking on the schedule. Rates are for adult admission—some places will give you a student discount with your university ID.

In addition to our weekly field trips, each week (as listed on the schedule below) you are expected to visit a site listed as the ***Tour Assignment for the Week***. These sites should inform you about Britain's history, culture, political and economic issues. For both the field trips and tour assignments I'd like you to consider how they are related to Britain's identity as a country. In turn, how then might that affect Britain's relationship within the EU? For instance, what does the British Museum tell you about British history? How, then, does that affect or influence its relationship with the other EU countries? How does Britain's history influence EU policy making? When you visit the shops and marketplaces, what kinds of things do you see? What do these tell you about Britain's political culture and its economic ties with the EU?

Journal entries are due weekly (see schedule) and should run Thursday through Friday (with the exception of the first week which you will begin on Friday). Journal entries should be made daily and only need to be as long as it takes you to describe your experience, observation, or insights about your experience in the UK as it relates to your understanding of Britain and/or the EU. Your entries should also reflect the more specific issues/questions I give you to consider during your stay. Your grade will be determined by how much thought you put into the issues/questions, whether or not you make and document the "Tour Assignments" and field trips, whether or not you hand in your journals on time, and your contributions during the site visits.

### **Position Papers**

In the position papers, you will write on both general EU as well as a few country-specific topics. Papers 1, 2, and 6 should be written after our classroom discussions. Papers 3, 4, and 5, however, should be completed before we leave for London and are due on the first day of class. For papers 3, 4, and 5, you will each receive a country assignment and be expected to present that country's position for the specific economic, political, and social issue (see schedule). You will have web links and readings on which to base your information. By having a better understanding of the particular constraints and interests of a member-country, you will be more likely to see the complexities of these issues.

The recommended book on the reading list above (Zeff and Pirro) may be useful to you in researching your assigned country's position, though you should be able to complete your research by using web resources linked from my London course page in addition to other references you may find (such as news articles, country homepages, etc). As you will have limited access to computers, hand-written assignments are acceptable. There is no minimum length for position papers. Instead, you should gauge your work based on the extent to which you've answered the questions/addressed the issues in a concise, yet thorough manner. I expect these papers to be legible. If your handwriting is atrocious, I will expect you to print.

## Issue Participation

I take a very interactive approach to teaching. This means I'll be doing some talking, but you'll also be doing some talking. This portion of your grade is based on the **quality** of your participation, not solely the **quantity**. For each session I will keep track of not only how often you participate, but will also take note of the quality of what you contribute. In terms of grading, an A for participation means that you've given insightful, thoughtful, and original comments, backed by the readings. A participation grade of B means that you are familiar with the readings, but haven't necessarily thought through the connections between the readings and the bigger picture. A C participation grade is average, meaning your contributions are largely comments on the topics, rather than ideas grounded in the readings. A D participation grade is earned when you don't contribute to the class discussions. A failing grade for participation would be the result of non-attendance.

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## Additional Information

*Extra credit projects are not an option.*

*The syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.*

**All assignments** must be submitted on the due date listed on the schedule. **Late assignments** will lose a letter grade for each day (not class) they are late, and will not be accepted more than five days after the due date. The last day any assignment will be accepted is Friday, August 5, as grades must be submitted before we leave London.

**All CCSA Rules apply.** Note that CCSA requires mandatory attendance, and, as CCSA suggests, an unexcused absence will result in a letter grade reduction. This applies to classes as well as field trips.

**Academic honesty:** I expect you to act and behave in an ethical manner regarding your academic work. In taking this course, you are making a commitment that, individually and collectively, you will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

**If you encounter any problems** throughout the semester regarding this class, your ability to participate, or your stay in London, please let me know **ASAP**. It is not advisable to wait until the end of the semester to inform me of difficulties you are having, as it is then after the fact.

## Schedule & Reading Assignments

Please note the following:

- All page numbers refer to your DK Eyewitness Travel London Guidebook given to you during orientation.
- Schedule, reading assignments, field trips, and dates may be subject to change.
- Monday classes run 9-12; Wednesday classes run 1-4. Reminders are in parenthesis on the schedule.
- See London course webpage for links to the sites for each of the field trips.

Week #1	Topic	Assignment Due/ Notes
<b><i>Tour Assignment for the Week</i></b> Visit The British Museum – free, (pp. 126-129) and have some traditional pub grub		
Monday 7/11 (class meets 9-12)	Introduction to the EU and the UK's membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Position papers #3, #4, and #5 due</li> </ul>
Tuesday 7/12	<b>Full day field trip to GREENWICH</b>	-sites planned for this trek are all free
Wednesday 7/13 (class meets 1-4)	The EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The EU: A Very Short Introduction</b>, Pinder</li> </ul>
Thursday 7/14	No class	
Friday 7/15 is	No class	-whole day excursion (by bus) to Salisbury & Stonehenge

Week #2	Topic	Assignment Due/ Notes
<p><b><i>Tour Assignment for the Week</i></b>            Visit Harrods (p. 211) and the Old Spitalfields Market (p. 170) or the Camden Market (p. 246) (all free), and eat at one of the many African restaurants in London</p>		
Monday 7/18 (class meets 9-12)	The EMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week #1 journal due</li> <li>• <b>The UK &amp; the Euro</b>, Temperton book</li> </ul>
Tuesday 7/19	No class	
Wednesday 7/20 (class meets 1-4)	Britain & the EU Trip to the Bank of London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online readings</li> <li>• Position Paper #1 due</li> </ul>
Thursday 7/21	<b>Full day field trip in LONDON</b>	<b>Tower of London-</b> £14.50, (pp. 154-157) <b>House of Commons session-</b> free, (pp. 72-73)
Friday 7/22 through Sunday 7/24 is an optional trip to Edinburgh	No class	(note that you need to reserve 2 of your BritRail pass days for the Edinburgh trip)

Week #3	Topic	Assignment Due/ Notes
<p><b>Tour Assignment for the Week</b>            Visit Imperial War Museum-free (p. 190-191), and eat at an Indian restaurant</p>		
Monday 7/25 (class meets 9-12)	Britain, the EU, & the EMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week #2 journal due</li> <li>• Paper #2 due</li> </ul>
Tuesday 7/26	<b>Full day field trip to BATH</b>	-reserve 1 BritRail pass day for this trip -approximate cost of fees for sites £15
Wednesday 7/27 (class meets 1-4)	The EU & economic integration -Aggravation over Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online readings</li> <li>• Discuss Position Paper #3</li> </ul>
Thursday 7/28	No class	
Friday 7/29 through Sunday 7/31 is optional trip to Paris	No class	-note that you will <b>not</b> have to use your BritRail pass for this trip

Week #4	Topic	Assignment Due/ Notes
<p><b>Tour Assignment for the Week</b>            Visit London Central Mosque-free, (p. 226) and eat at a Middle Eastern restaurant—there are many in the area of the Mosque</p>		
<p><b>August</b>            Monday 8/1            (class meets 9-12)</p>	<p>The EU &amp; political integration            -Ratifying the EU Constitution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week #3 journal due</li> <li>• Online readings</li> <li>• Discuss Position Paper #4</li> </ul>
<p>Tuesday 8/2</p>	<p>No class</p>	<p>Work on your final paper!!!</p>
<p>Wednesday 8/3            (class meets 1-4)</p>	<p>The EU &amp; social integration            -The Muslim Question</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online readings</li> <li>• Discuss Position Paper #5</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday 8/4</p>	<p><b>Full day field trip to YORK</b></p>	<p>-reserve 1 BritRail pass day for this trip            -approximate cost of entrance for sites £10</p>
<p>Friday 8/5</p>	<p>Tying it all together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week #4 journal due</li> <li>• Paper #6 due (final analysis)</li> </ul>